

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A catheter assembly comprising:

an outer catheter and an inner catheter that can be inserted into said outer catheter;

said outer catheter being comprised an outer catheter body comprising at least an inner layer, an outer layer, and a reinforcing layer interposed between them, a flexible soft tip attached to a distal end of said outer catheter body, and an outer catheter hub attached to a proximal end of said outer catheter body;

said inner catheter being comprised a hard proximal part, a distal part softer than said hard proximal part, and an inner catheter hub formed at a proximal end of the proximal part, and

wherein said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub are adapted to be fixed each other so that said two catheters do not rotate and move relative to each other, when said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub engage each other, at least a part of said inner catheter protrudes from a distal end of said outer catheter, with the distance between the distal end of said outer catheter and a distal end of said inner catheter being no more than 10 mm.

2. (Original) The catheter assembly as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the

inner catheter comprises a second soft tip with flexibility at the distal end.

3. (Original) The catheter assembly as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the second soft tip comprises a larger wall thickness than the soft tip of the outer catheter.

4. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as set forth in ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the distal part of the outer catheter body comprises a predetermined curved portion.

5. (Original) The catheter assembly as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the outer catheter hub is engaged with the inner catheter hub in such a way that the boundary between the hard proximal end and the flexible distal end of the inner catheter is located on the proximal side from the curved portion of the outer catheter body.

6. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as set forth in ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

7. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as set forth in ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the outer catheter comprises a size such that the ratio of the outside diameter to the inside diameter is no smaller than 0.89 and no larger than 0.95.

8. (Currently Amended) The catheter assembly as set forth in ~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the outer catheter comprises a wall thickness smaller than that of the inner catheter.

9. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the distal part of the outer catheter body comprises a predetermined curved portion.

10. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the distal part of the outer catheter body comprises a predetermined curved portion.

11. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

12. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

13. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

14. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 5, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

15. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the outer catheter comprises a size such that the ratio of the outside diameter to the inside diameter is no smaller than 0.89 and no larger than 0.95.

16. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the outer catheter comprises a size such that the ratio of the outside diameter to the inside diameter is no smaller than 0.89 and no larger than 0.95.

17. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein the outer catheter comprises a size such that the ratio of the outside diameter to the inside diameter is no smaller than 0.89 and no larger than 0.95.

18. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer catheter comprises a wall thickness smaller than that of the inner catheter.

19. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the outer catheter comprises a wall thickness smaller than that of the inner catheter.

20. (New) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the outer catheter comprises a wall thickness smaller than that of the inner catheter.